

SENATE.....No. 43.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN SENATE, February, 1845.

The Joint Standing Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the communication of the Secretary of State, as well as the message of his Excellency, the Governor, of the 31st of January, transmitting a letter received from M. Alexandre Vattemare, of Paris, in France, have considered the same, and

REPORT:

That it appears by the aforesaid papers, that M. Vattemare, whose journey over the United States a few years since, for the purpose of carrying into effect a project of international exchange of books and other useful objects of science or art, is doubtless within the recollection of most of the members of the general Court, has been assiduously engaged in the prosecution of his enterprise since his return home. In exchange for a few works published heretofore by order of the Commonwealth, which were sent to him from the Secretary's office, for distribution, he has already been the means of procuring many others of high value, relating to the statistics of France, which have been duly received, and are now in the Library of the State.

A very splendid geological map of that great country, has also been received; and information has been obtained of the transmission of a very considerable number of additional books, now on the way, all of which have been obtained by the disinterested activity of this extraordinary man.

It is needless to say that the labors of M. Vattemare have been perfectly gratuitous throughout. Nor is this all. He has been actually subjected to very considerable expense, attending the packing and transmission of works, either forward or backward, between Paris and the sea ports of France, all of which he has thus far paid out of his own pocket. From these charges he asks to be relieved by those States who receive the benefit of his labors. And he further asks that some returns should be made, through him, to the sources of all the liberality that has been or may yet be exercised.

Your Committee have no doubt what should be the duty and inclination of the people of Massachusetts, in this matter. They have always shown so marked a disposition to encourage all worthy enterprises for the diffusion of knowledge among men, and the cultivation of a spirit of kindness and good will between nations, that they would not be satisfied with a simple acknowledgment of obligation. The great difficulty seems to be to specify exactly what and how much they are able to do, on their part, by way of return. In this difficulty their attention has been turned towards the action of other States in the Union, on this matter. Your Committee perceive that the State of Maine has already taken the lead, and has made a permanent provision for the furtherance of the object of international exchange. They recommend that this Commonwealth do at least as much as her daughter has done. For this purpose they ask leave to report certain Resolves.

By order,

C. F. ADAMS, *Chairman.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-five.

RESOLVES

To Promote Mutual Literary and Scientific Exchanges with Foreign Countries.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Commonwealth, under the direction of His Excellency the Governor, be authorized to exchange copies of the State Map of Massachusetts, not exceeding twenty in number, and bound copies of the Laws and Legislative Documents of the Commonwealth for the current political year, not exceeding fifty volumes of each, for books and other works of science and art from foreign countries, to be deposited in the Library of the General Court. And the Secretary is hereby authorized to cause fifty copies of each of the said documents for every future year to be printed over and above the number now authorized by the General Court, and to be bound in volumes and set aside for the purpose of effecting the aforesaid exchanges hereafter.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor be authorized to appoint some suitable person residing in the city of Paris, France, to be the agent for this Commonwealth in transmitting to and receiving from the Secretary's Office, all such books and

other works of science and art, as may be addressed to his care in pursuance of the object of the preceding Resolve, and to audit and allow all reasonable charges of said agent for the receiving, packing, carriage and exportation of said objects of exchange, *provided* that the total sum so expended shall not exceed three hundred dollars.